

International Agency for Research on Cancer



World Health
Organization

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOR RESEARCH ON CANCER

150, Cours Albert-Thomas, 69372 Lyon Cedex 08, France

SENIOR VISITING SCIENTIST AWARD EVALUATION FORM

Name and address of referee Vincent COGLIANO

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington DC 20460, USA

Sir/Madam,

I have applied for the IARC Senior Visiting Scientist Award and I have given your name as a referee. Would you kindly complete this Evaluation Form and return it directly to the :

Fellowship Programme, International Agency for Research on Cancer
150, cours Albert-Thomas, 69372 Lyon Cedex 08, France - Fax : +33 (0)472 73 80 80

Yours sincerely.

Name of applicant : Christopher PORTIER Signature of applicant : _____

Sir/Madam,

Would you help us in our work of selection by giving us your evaluation of the candidate. You may be assured that your reply will be considered as a privileged communication and made available only to those persons taking part in the selection process. In your evaluation please comment on the suitability of the applicant for this senior award designed to enable a qualified and experienced investigator to spend up to one year at the IARC working on the implementation of a collaborative research project in a research area related to the Agency's own programmes.

Chairman, IARC Selection Committee

PLEASE TYPE YOUR COMMENTS (continue on another page if required):

I was acquainted with this applicant from approximately 1990 to the present time

in the capacity of professional colleague
(Teacher, supervisor, etc.)

Dear IARC Selection Committee,

I am writing this letter to enthusiastically support Dr Christopher Portier for appointment as an IARC Senior Visiting Scientist. My name is Vincent Coglianò, and I served as head of the *IARC Monographs* programme from 2003 until 2010, when I returned to the United States to direct the health hazard assessment program at

the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. During my years at IARC I knew several Visiting Scientists, and I consider myself to be well acquainted with IARC's Fellowship Programme and with IARC in general.

I have known Dr Portier for more than 20 years as a professional colleague. We worked in the same field in closely related health agencies of the U.S. government. We remained in close professional contact while I worked at IARC and also when he became director of the National Center for Environmental Health and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. I invited him to several IARC meetings, as a Working Group Member, Advisory Group Member, and meeting chair.

It is seldom that I have an opportunity to recommend someone so highly for an appointment. Dr Portier has had a truly outstanding career as a quantitatively-oriented health scientist. He has attained highly influential positions as director of the U.S. National Toxicology Program and as director of the U.S. National Center for Environmental Health and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. Throughout his career, Dr Portier has also maintained a high profile in the scientific community, with numerous scientific publications and committee memberships.

My enthusiastic recommendation is based not only on scientific reputation and a strong record of achievement, but also on personal characteristics. Dr Portier has one of the keenest minds I have known. He is a visionary who is able to anticipate the future and implement practical steps to place an organization at the forefront of change. He also has a remarkable work ethic. He can be tireless when the job demands it, and he demands even more of himself. He masters the latest tools of the electronic age so that he is fully productive while waiting or while traveling.

The time is right for Dr Portier to be at IARC. The field of cancer research is changing rapidly and fundamentally. There will be fewer traditional epidemiologic studies and animal bioassays and more molecular epidemiology studies and mechanistic assays. Researchers will use high-throughput screening assays to identify agents that affect mechanistic pathways leading to carcinogenesis. They will also use genomics data to establish links to these pathways. As director of the National Toxicology Program, Dr Portier developed a vision for the use of these new testing methods, and he organized a multi-agency consortium to implement this approach. He has a clear vision for how to bring these new data into risk assessment, which will be important for the identification of human carcinogens by the *IARC Monographs*. He can also help other IARC research groups move forward in their use of these new technologies.

The time is also right for Dr Portier to come to IARC to help the Monographs programme decide on whether and how to move into the field of quantitative risk assessment. The current Preamble to the *IARC Monographs* opens the door to exploration of dose-response relationships. I began to think about this topic while I worked at IARC, and Dr Portier would have been my choice to lead an Advisory Group to develop recommendations and a plan of action on this topic. He would be a great advisor to the Monographs programme if they decide to convene Working Groups to develop quantitative risk assessments. I would like to see how Dr Portier would use the results of new testing approaches in quantitative risk assessments.

I would also note that Dr Portier is likely to make significant contributions to other IARC programmes as well. He has a keen mind that is able to quickly grasp the fundamentals of many scientific questions, and he makes linkages across disciplines. I could see him collaborating with any IARC scientific group and asking probing questions at any IARC seminar. His vast network of contacts across the U.S. and international scientific communities would also be a valuable resource for IARC. In short, I see many ways that he would stimulate his IARC colleagues and help them to excel.

In summary, I am completely confident that Dr Portier would make an outstanding contribution to IARC as a Senior Visiting Scientist. I can think of no better person to recommend, and the time is right him to work there. IARC would be very fortunate to have Dr Portier come now as a Senior Visiting Scientist.

Yours sincerely,

Date _____

(Signature)